

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for sealing the end of a burner tube including the step of forming a bore near the end of the burner tube and inserting a cone-shaped plug element into the bore until a circular periphery of the plug element abuttably engages a step defined by the stepped bore. The circular periphery of the plug element has a diameter that is greater than an inside diameter of the step formed by the stepped bore. A force is then applied to the plug element tending to cause its circular periphery to expand radially outwardly until the circular periphery sealingly engages the inside of the stepped bore. The sealing method and apparatus allows various processing steps to be performed on the tube, such as bending, drilling, painting and punching to be performed prior to sealing the end of the tube.